

Meet Nichole Dearth, OT Section

Nichole is an occupational therapist practicing for over ten years primarily in rural school based practice where she is currently employed full time serving children and young adults aged 3 to 22. She has a passion for working with autistic children and supporting teachers. This is also her ninth year serving as adjunct faculty at Rhodes State College where she has been lead instructor for the pediatric intervention course as well as assisting with other content areas. She graduated from The University of Findlay with her Masters of Occupational Therapy in 2010. This is her first term on the board.

What led you to apply for the Board?

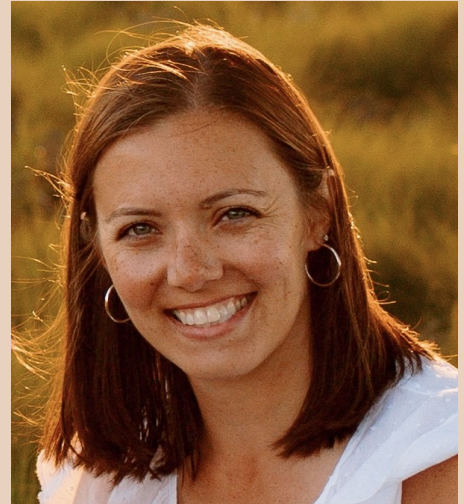
I applied for the board after a discussion with a supervisor about potential leadership opportunities. Literally days later an email was sent about open board positions with a preference for someone with school based experience, and I took it as my cue to apply.

What is your favorite part of Board service?

I have always loved knowing “why” and being able to see how all of the behind the scenes things operate has been so interesting to me. I never realized how much time and effort goes into making what appears to be a small rule change or making sure a complaint is investigated thoroughly. Putting the new Safe Haven program into effect has been an over a year process and the board puts so much thought and consideration into making it work well. The collaboration and discussions that take place to make sure these things are implemented effectively is something I am proud to be a part of!

Do you have any advice for Board license holders?

Get involved and stay up to date! This is only my second year on the board, and I feel like I have grown and learned so much. I truly never realized what the board does before applying and I’m guessing there are many other license holders who don’t either. There are many ways to be more engaged. Read the board notes or give feedback on a rule change. Read the newsletter or apply for an open position. Also, don’t ever take your license for granted and make sure to protect it. If you ever aren’t sure if or how something could affect your license, ask!



April is Limb
Loss and Limb
Difference
Awareness
Month!

Upcoming Board meetings:

May 10, 2023

OPP Advisory Council

May 18, 2023

OTPTAT Joint Board

OT Section

PT Section

AT Section

All meetings will take place in-person at the
Vern Riffe Center, 77 South High Street,
19th floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

Visit <https://otptat.ohio.gov/> for more
details closer to the meeting dates.

As a reminder, the Safe Haven program trainings count for 1 hour of continuing education credit. **You can attend these online trainings for free!** Read more about the Safe Haven program [here](#). Click on a date below to register!

[May 22nd at 9am](#)

[June 5th at 3pm](#)

[July 26th at 11am](#)



Also the Ohio Professionals Health Program will be presenting with the AT section at the upcoming Ohio Athletic Trainers Association conference, in May and again at the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association conference in November!

Physical Therapy and Close Relations Treatment

While there are numerous reasons why a physical therapist might provide treatment to their family members or other close relations, there are challenges and other ethical concerns to consider. When a licensee has both a provider relationship and a significantly different personal or professional relationship with the same individual, this is known as a "dual relationship." Dual relationships can be considered as:

- Familial
- Social
- Professional
- Communal

Physical therapy best-practice standards require that the licensee be able to treat objectively. A personal relationship with a patient establishes a significant likelihood that objectivity may be compromised, and the licensee may not treat the patient fairly. Patients in a dual relationship with a licensee may not feel empowered to ask questions or challenge the knowledge or expertise of the licensee for fear of damaging the personal relationship. When treatment is necessary it is always preferable that another licensee provide care. Certain circumstances such as emergency situations, another provider is not available, or required care cannot be reasonably accessed from an-

other provider. Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) should communicate with the supervising PT when they have a dual relationship with a potential patient. PTs should not require a PTA they supervise to provide treatment to individuals with whom the PTA has such a relationship. As PTAs should always be working under supervision.

When a PT provides care where they and the patient have a dual relationship, best practices can include:

- Follow accepted standards and protocols.
- Maintain a formal medical record
- Consider telehealth as an appropriate alternative to seek health care
- Notify the patient's other health care team members

Read more on dual relationships and treatment [here](#).



Rules Input:

The OTPTAT Board seeks your comments and feedback on the following proposed rules which are being submitted for review by the Common Sense Initiative. These rules are in response to [House Bill 509](#) from the 134th General Assembly. This bill made the following changes to licensure for OP&P:

- Eliminates temporary licenses to practice orthotics, prosthetics, orthotics and prosthetics, and pedorthics
- Eliminates a requirement that an applicant for a license to practice orthotics, prosthetics, orthotics and prosthetics, or pedorthics practice under a licensee for at least eight months before being eligible for the license.

Please review the language of the rules below by clicking on the link. Submit your comments to rules@otptat.ohio.gov and csipubliccomments@governor.ohio.gov. Include contact information with your name, phone number, email address, and license type (if applicable), as well as [the number of the rule on which you have comments](#).

Rule Number	Title	Summary of Changes
<u>Business Impact Analysis</u>		
4755-62-01	Definition of Terms	Eliminates definitions related to temporary licensure.
4755-63-01	Applications for initial licensure by examination	Eliminates the requirements to have a signed statement attesting to having conducted an eight-month supervision by a Ohio-license holder. This was eliminated by House Bill 509.
4755-63-06	Temporary license application procedure.	To be rescinded.
4755-63-15	Unique and exceptional qualifications.	Eliminates references to temporary licensure.
4755-66-02	Temporary license fee.	To be rescinded.
4755-66-05	Fee to upgrade from temporary to full license.	To be rescinded.

Rules Updates:

The Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Practice Act documents have been updated on the OTPTAT Board website to include recent changes. A summary of changes is included in the document. Use Control-F to search the contents of the document. You can find the documents [here](#).

You can download a copy of your wall certificate in eLicense Ohio!

To access your wall certificate, log into the eLicense Ohio website (<http://elicense.ohio.gov>) and click the “options” tab on your license. One of the menu options will be “download wall certificate.” This will bring up a copy of your wall certificate and allow you to print it or save it to your phone or other electronic device. [Step-by-step instructions](#) are available for your assistance.



According to the Ohio Administrative Code for the occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic trainer sections, a license holder can display their wall certificate on an electronic device as a way of meeting the requirement for license display. The Board recognizes that we live in an increasingly mobile world and use of this feature enhances the ability to display your license at the request of anyone who may wish to see proof of licensure. Replacement wall certificates will still be available by request for those who wish to continue to use a hard copy for a fee of \$10.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at Board@otptat.ohio.gov.

OTPTAT Board Licenses

The OTPTAT Board does not have an option to escrow any license type. If you are temporarily not working in your licensed field, you have two options:

1. Continue to renew your license to keep it active. If you choose this route, you will be responsible for completing the continuing education requirements. There is no requirement to practice a minimum number of hours in order to keep your license active.
2. You may allow your license to expire and reinstate it at a later date if you need it. Keep in mind that if you are out of practice for five years or longer, you may be asked to take additional courses or retake the exam when you go to reinstate.

**Did
You
Know
?**

Ohio BWC's 2023 [Virtual Medical and Health Symposium](#) is taking place Thursday, May 4 – Saturday, May 6, 2023. Session topics include the latest health principles in occupational medicine, disability etiquette and inclusion, empathy in healthcare, speaking up about mental health, building mental strength, and much more. The Symposium offers [continuing education](#) for many healthcare and legal professions.



OT renewal – April 1, 2023-June 30, 2023

Occupational Therapist licenses expire on June 30, 2023. Please renew as soon as possible to avoid any technical issues with the renewal process and to ensure you receive timely assistance. You cannot practice in the state of Ohio with an expired license. **You cannot renew late.**

Visit https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_CommunitiesLogin to renew. Preferred browser is Google Chrome. If you need assistance logging in, please contact (855) 405-5514 Monday-Friday 8 AM to 5 PM. For assistance and questions not related to logging into eLicense, feel free to contact the board at Board@otptat.ohio.gov or (614) 466-3774.

Note on continuing education: You must have completed 20 hours of continuing education between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023, including one hour of ethics, jurisprudence, or cultural competence. You do not need to submit certificates at this time. Please retain them for at least two years in case you are selected for audit. You do not need any CE for your first renewal.



Did you know?

Continuing Education



OTs and OTAs do not need to have a specific approval number from the Board in order for a workshop, seminar, conference, or webinar to count as continuing education. Prior approval is not required if a program meets the following criteria:

- ⇒ It contributes directly to professional competency;
- ⇒ It relates directly to the clinical practice, management, or education of occupational therapy practitioners; and
- ⇒ It is conducted by people who have demonstrated expertise in the subject matter of the program.

Read more about Continuing Education in [Ohio Administrative Code 4755-9-01](#).

Occupational Therapy-Credential Use

Remember it is very important to understand when it is appropriate you use your credentials. It is the position of the Occupational Therapy Section that pursuant to [Ohio Revised Code 4755.04 \(A\)\(1\)](#):

"Occupational therapy" means the therapeutic use of everyday life activities or occupations with individuals or groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in the home, school, workplace, community, and other settings. The practice of occupational therapy includes all of the following: Methods or strategies selected to direct the process of interventions, including, but not limited to, establishment, remediation, or restoration of a skill or ability that has not yet developed or is impaired and compensation, modification, or adaptation of activity or environment to enhance performance. Examples of when to use your OT credentials include:

- ◇ OT/L" if the occupational therapist does not hold current NBCOT certification; or
- ◇ "OTR/L" if the occupational therapist holds current NBCOT certification.

Occupational therapy assistants please note that if you are providing occupational therapy services you would need to be supervised by an occupational therapist. All occupational therapy assistants shall use the following credential following their signature to indicate licensure as an occupational therapy assistant:

- ◇ "OTA/L" if the occupational therapy assistant does not hold current NBCOT certification; or
- ◇ "COTA/L" if the occupational therapy assistant holds current NBCOT certification.

Questions? Contact the OT Section at Board@otptat.ohio.gov.



April is
**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY
MONTH**

Please note:
Board offices
will be closed
for Memorial
Day.



Formal Board Actions Taken by the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

March 2023

Carole Zurvitz
PTA002327

Sanction: Revocation of license

Basis for Action: During the continuing education audit of physical therapist assistants for the 2019-2021 license renewal period, Zurvitz failed to provide evidence of continuing education completion. Zurvitz additionally failed to respond to the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Zurvitz violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.47 (A)(6) & (22), and Ohio Administrative Code rules 4755-23-08 (E)(2).

Board Action Date: 3/10/2022

Ryan Shackelford
PTA008470

Sanction: Revocation of license

Basis for Action: During the continuing education audit of physical therapist assistants for the 2019-2021 license renewal period, Shackelford failed to provide evidence of continuing education completion. Shackelford additionally failed to respond to the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Shackelford violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.47 (A)(6) & (22), and Ohio Administrative Code rules 4755-23-08 (E)(2).

Board Action Date: 3/10/2022

Jennifer Walker Chaabouni
PTA002327

Sanction: Revocation of license

Basis for Action: During the continuing education audit of physical therapist assistants for the 2019-2021 license renewal period, Chaabouni failed to provide evidence of continuing education completion. Chaabouni additionally failed to respond to the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Chaabouni violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.47 (A)(6) & (22), and Ohio Administrative Code rules 4755-23-08 (E)(2).

Board Action Date: 3/10/2022

David Moseley
PTA011985

Sanction: Revocation of license

Basis for Action: During the continuing education audit of physical therapist assistants for the 2019-2021 license renewal period, Moseley failed to provide evidence of continuing education completion. Moseley additionally failed to respond to the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Moseley violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.47 (A)(6) & (22), and Ohio Administrative Code rules 4755-23-08 (E)(2).

Board Action Date: 3/10/2022

Audra Wright
PTA005793

Sanction: Revocation of license

Basis for Action: During the continuing education audit of physical therapist assistants for the 2019-2021 license renewal period, Wright failed to provide evidence of continuing education completion. Wright additionally failed to respond to the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Wright violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.47 (A)(6) & (22), and Ohio Administrative Code rules 4755-23-08 (E)(2).

Board Action Date: 3/10/2022

OPTA Conference:

It was a pleasure for the Board to be an exhibitor at the Ohio Physical Therapy Association's Spring Conference.

A great place to meet with and educate PTs and PTAs on Ohio's laws and regulations.

Pictured here are current and former OTPTAT Board members: Erin Hofmeyer, Ron Kleinman, James Lee, and Tim McIntire.

